

Latest Developments Regarding the Republic of Kosovo

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Kosovo's Economy Shows New Promise

- In the first quarter of 2019, Kosovo's revenue reached 464.8€ million.
- The country's GDP grew by 4.1% in Q1, compared to the same quarter last year, reaching \$1.6 billion.
- In the first four months of 2019, Kosovo's net profit rose to \$28.9 million, an 11.6% increase compared to the same period in 2018.

- The country reported an increase in gross capital of 7.4% in the first quarter of this year, when compared to the same quarter in 2018.
- In the first quarter of 2019, Kosovo reported a 6.7% increase in exports of goods and services, compared to the same quarter last year, while imports grew by 8.1% during this same period year-on-year.
- In the first quarter of 2019, Kosovo's foreign tourist arrivals increased 2.7%, compared to the same quarter of 2018.

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Kosovo Praises the U.S.

- Kosovars celebrate the U.S. as we approach the 20th anniversary of U.S. involvement in Kosovo, ending the ethnic-cleansing campaign, which led to its independence and helped catapult its success as a rising democratic country in the Western Balkans.
- Kosovo honors former U.S. President Bill Clinton and top U.S. diplomat Madeleine Albright with awards for their vital roles in bringing about liberty and peace in Kosovo.
- Kosovo has created an American Economic Zone in hopes of encouraging FDI from the U.S., offering free land and tax breaks for companies who want to get a foothold in Europe.
- The U.S. opened its new embassy in Pristina, Kosovo in a display of our growing friendship and important partnership.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/06/08/remembering-us-intervention-that-worked/>

<https://www.rt.com/news/461635-kosovo-albright-clinton-monument/>

<https://news.tunf.com/kosovo-opens-free-economic-zone-to-liberators/440812>

<https://www.radioiowa.com/2019/06/13/kosovo-representatives-visit-iowa-to-recruit-businesses/>

<https://www.stl.news/us-department-state-dedicates-new-u-s-embassy-pristina-kosovo/277515/amp/>

New Initiatives Improve Quality of Life

- The EBRD has approved an 18€ million loan to Kitka, a 32.4MW wind farm in Kosovo that will raise the annual national power generation by more than 1.4% and is expected to reduce emissions by 81,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year.
- Kosovo has set a goal of introducing 400MW of new renewable energy projects by 2026.
- Kosovo has one of the highest rates of child vaccinations in Europe, reporting that 95% of children in the country have been vaccinated.

<https://prishtinainsight.com/kosovo-leading-in-europe-for-child-vaccination-rates/>

<https://renews.biz/53954/ebd-lends-18m-to-kosovo-wind-debut/>

<https://www.power-technology.com/news/ebd-kitka-wind-farm-kosovo/>

Kosovo Works to Improve Bilateral Relations

- Kosovar PM Haradinaj met with Montenegrin PM Marković to discuss bilateral relations, regional issues, economic cooperation, and infrastructure projects, like the motorway linking Kosovo and Macedonia to Montenegro which will help increase travel, create better routes for businesses, and enhance trade.
- Montenegrin President Đukanović met with Kosovar Ambassador to Montenegro Durmishi, where they discussed their bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation on regional issues. Đukanović said, "Montenegro will continue to support the stability and prosperity of Kosovo and its further European integration."
- Kosovo and Taiwan signed an MoU that will further increase business cooperation between the two countries, specifically in the areas of information and communication technologies, auto parts, machinery, chemistry, and textiles.
- The U.K. Armed Forces Minister announced that the U.K. will continue its contribution to the NATO KFOR mission in Kosovo after 20 years of enhancing KFOR's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability, and helping increase its situational awareness.
- Kosovo and Albania signed an inter-ministerial agreement to unify diplomatic and consular missions, and an agreement to unify and coordinate on foreign policy. They agreed to create a joint council to discuss regional developments, a joint fund for management, and agreed to joint embassies and consulates.
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel recently stated that there is strong support for the integration of the Western Balkan nations (which includes Kosovo) to join the E.U., assuring that the bloc believes their integration is in its "strategic interest".
- Kosovo's primary objective during its one-year Chairmanship over the South-East European Cooperation Process will be to promote youth mobility in the region and with the E.U., which will include the promotion of young artists,

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cultural heritage, and new developments in the energy sector. It will also focus on bettering relations and stability within the region through encouraging comprehensive cooperation and promoting European integration.

- Kosovo and Antigua and Barbuda signed agreements to establish diplomatic relations and abolish visa requirements between the two countries, and discussed increasing trade, investments, and tourism between the two nations.

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Sincerely,

Jamie Rubin

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